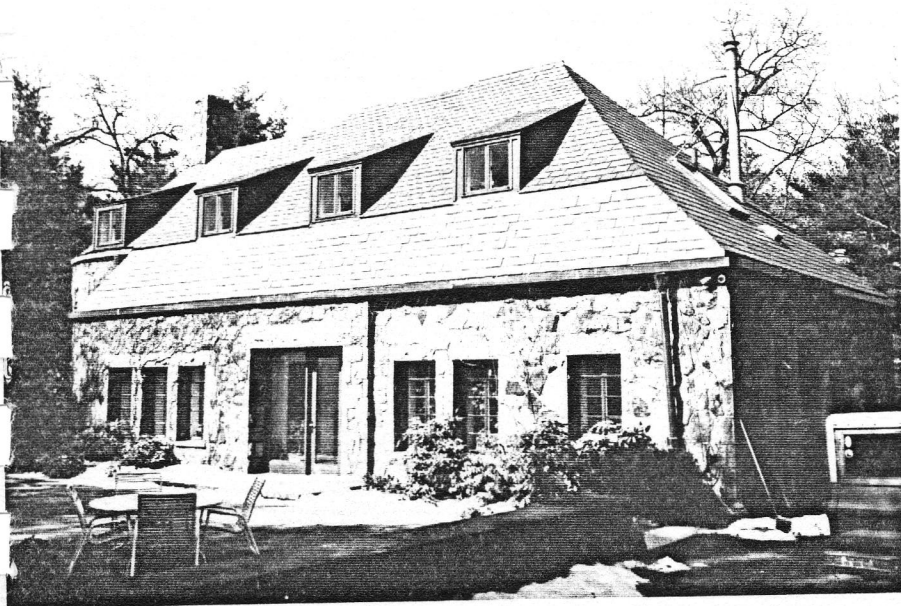


FORM B - BUILDING

MASSACHUSETTS HISTORICAL COMMISSION  
294 WASHINGTON STREET, BOSTON, MA 02108

AREA	FORM NO. 388
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own Lexington

Address 60 Meriam Street

Historic Name Hayes Carriage House

Use: Present residence

Original carriage house

DESCRIPTION:

Date 1883-1884

Source Lexington Minute Man, Nov. 16, 1883

Style Richardsonian/Chateausque

Architect \_\_\_\_\_

Exterior wall fabric multi-colored granite

Outbuildings \_\_\_\_\_

Major alterations (with dates) converted to residence (1941); remodeled and half-timbered addition removed (1982)

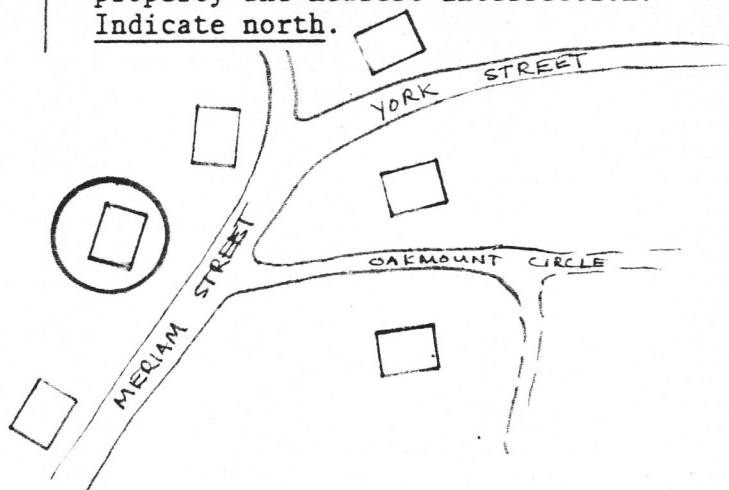
Moved \_\_\_\_\_ Date \_\_\_\_\_

Approx. acreage 1.0 A. (42880 ft.<sup>2</sup>)

Setting On the northern slope of Granny Hill; a residential street in which a few turn of the twentieth century houses are interspersed with more recent houses.

SKETCH MAP

Show property's location in relation to nearest cross streets and/or geographical features. Indicate all buildings between inventoried property and nearest intersection. Indicate north.



Recorded by Anne Grady

Organization Lexington Historical Commission

Date March, 1984

(Staple additional sheets here)

ARCHITECTURAL SIGNIFICANCE (Describe important architectural features and evaluate in terms of other buildings within the community.)

This house is all that remains of Lexington's most splendid estate, the Hayes property, also called The Castle or Oakmont. As the carriage house, it stood east of the 32-room main house (demolished in 1941) in the 400-acre estate which was landscaped with exotic and costly plants (some of the rhododendrons are still evident on this lot). Constructed, like the mansion, of multi-colored granite including stones with pink and orange tones as well as grey, some of which were imported from Maine, the carriage house echoes

(see Continuation Sheet)

HISTORICAL SIGNIFICANCE (Explain the role owners played in local or state history and how the building relates to the development of the community.)

Francis B. Hayes was a lawyer who was particularly successful in advising railroad companies and was instrumental in the construction of several railroad lines in the west. He was elected to the Massachusetts House of Representatives in 1873 and the State Senate the next year. He was responsible for the passage of a bill "reducing the hours of labor in the factories and shops for women and children to ten hours per day, and other legislation to protect them in manufacturing establishments from overwork and abuse" (Hurd 1890, Volume I:636).

Hayes came to Lexington in 1861 as a summer resident. He gradually amassed acreage until he owned all of Granny Hill and land extending from it to Hancock and Grant streets. In 1883-1884 he built the largest dwelling ever to be built in Lexington for his permanent residence (the architect has not been identified).

Hayes was an avid horticulturist and embellished his estate with rare plants. Many of the rhododendrons he planted are still seen from Meriam Street, Oakmont Circle, and Castle Road. Hayes was president of the Massachusetts Horticultural Society for several years before his death in 1884 and the roses, azaleas and such that he exhibited regularly won prizes. Hayes and his descendants opened the grounds of his estate to the public and there are many references in the local paper to what was blooming there.

Most of the estate was divided up for house lots by 1900. Hallie Blake, who was prominent in town affairs, was the last resident of The Castle before its demolition in 1941.

BIBLIOGRAPHY and/or REFERENCES (name of publication, author, date and publisher)

Hurd, D. Hamilton, ed., History of Middlesex County, Massachusetts, Vol. I (Philadelphia: J.W. Lewis & Co., 1890).

Kelley, Beverly Allison. Lexington, A Century of Photographs, p. 37. Boston: Lexington Historical Society, 1980.

"Scenes from Old Lexington." Lexington Minute Man, August 6, 1953.

INVENTORY FORM CONTINUATION SHEET

MASSACHUSETTS HISTORICAL COMMISSION  
Office of the Secretary, Boston

Community: Lexington	Form No: 388
Property Name: 60 Meriam Street	

Indicate each item on inventory form which is being continued below.

ARCHITECTURAL SIGNIFICANCE

features of the main house in its high hip roof, bowed end, and expansive entry.

A half-timbered pavilion was added in 1941 when the house was converted to a dwelling. The current owners removed the pavilion, restored the entry to its original configuration, and remodeled the interior in 1982 under the direction of James Freeman, architect, of Boston. The owners spent four years collecting stones buried in the area when the main house was demolished, before commencing the restoration. On the interior, they raised the ceiling to expose a huge central tie beam, perhaps 15 feet square, and secured the iron bolts.

Staple to Inventory form at bottom